Remarks

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action of **June 10, 2004**. Reexamination and reconsideration of **claims 1-27** is respectfully requested.

Summary of The Office Action

Claims 1-20 and **22** were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sizer, II et al. (hereinafter "Sizer"), U.S.P. No. 5,416,872.

Claims 21 and **23** were indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

The Present Amendment

Claim 23 has been re-written in independent form and should now be in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the first optical signals represent binary ones and the second optical signals represent binary zeros, and first and second emitters are configured to emit the first and second optical signals, respectively. Examples of such connectors are described in at least Figures 1 and 2, their respective sections of the specification, and are also recited in dependent claim 6. Thus, no new matter as been added.

Sizer fails to teach or suggest emitting binary ones and zeros from a converted electrical signal using separate emitters. Since claim 1 recites features not taught or suggested by the Sizer, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Sizer. Accordingly, dependent claims 2-6 and 8 also patentably distinguish over the reference and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 9 has been amended to recite that an optical transmitter selectively transmits one of a first active optical signal representing binary one values that are derived from an electrical signal and a second active optical signal representing binary zero values derived

from the electrical signal where the first and second active optical signals are transmitted by separate transmitters.

Sizer fails to teach or suggest an optical transmitter that includes separate transmitters for the binary one values and the binary zero values as recited in present claim 9. Thus, independent claim 9 patentably distinguishes over Sizer. Accordingly, dependent claims 10-18 also patentably distinguish over the reference and are in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 20 recites first and second optical transmitters where different binary values are transmitted by each. The first transmitter is configured to transmit a binary value and the second transmitter is configured to transmit a different binary value. One example is illustrated in Figure 1 of the present application where a first transmitter transmits signal values 144_0 that represent binary zero values and a second transmitter transmits signal values 144_1 that represent binary one values. Another example is shown in Figure 2 where binary ones and zeros are transmitted separately out of optical output ports 216A and 216B.

Sizer fails to teach or suggest the apparatus recited in claim 20. Thus, claim 20 patentably distinguishes over Sizer and is in condition for allowance.

Independent claim 22 recites converting outbound electrical signals communicated into an electro-optical connector into optical signals that are separated by binary value and optically communicating the optical signals from the electro-optical connector using separate optical transmitters based on binary value of the optical signals. Sizer fails to teach or suggest separating optical signals by binary value and using separate optical transmitters based on binary value of the optical signals. Thus, claim 22 patentable distinguishes over Sizer.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, **claims 1-6, 8-18, 20-27** patentably and unobviously distinguish over the references of record and are now in condition for allowance. An early allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

30-Aug-2004

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